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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 3, 2004

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Sen. Gilbert touts agenda that is 'Working Today For Michigan's Tomorrow'

Lansing – State Sen. Jud Gilbert (R-Algonac) said he is looking forward to working on the Senate Republican's 2004 agenda, titled "Working Today for Michigan's Tomorrow."

The bold legislative agenda focuses on creating jobs, strengthening families and continuing to improve the quality of Michigan schools while also bringing state spending in line with existing revenues.

"This is a bold and proactive caucus agenda, one based on Michigan's priorities," said Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Wyoming. "This agenda makes it clear that Senate Republicans are going to work for what's best for Michigan's families, not what's easiest for state government."

Personally, Sen. Gilbert is making greater protection of the Great Lakes basin, particularly the St. Clair River, one of his top legislative priorities.

"Living along the St. Clair River, I understand the impact chemical spills have on our local communities, for the river is the drinking water source for thousands of my constituents," Gilbert said. "That's why I'll be introducing legislation addressing the notification and explanation of spills to help protect the public from the hazards associated with toxic chemicals."

"I also look forward to seeing our legislation restricting out-of-state waste passed in the House and signed into law. This package will reduce the hazardous materials brought into our state daily."

The 2004 Senate Republican Caucus Agenda covers a broad range of topics and priorities focused on:

(More)

- Improving Michigan's competitiveness, leading to a healthier economy and more job opportunities;
- Protecting families from health threats, criminal predators and unfair financial burdens;
- Educating youth by stretching education dollars, promoting reform and accountability and ensuring Michigan's children get the best education;
- Preserving Michigan's beauty through common sense land-use regulations, promoting recycling and limiting out-of-state trash; and
- Building a healthy Michigan – in terms of residents and the economy – by lowering healthcare costs while increasing accessibility, reducing state spending, and continuing Senate oversight of government activities.

Gilbert said one of the first initiatives undertaken this year involves the upcoming announcement of JOBS: Phase II. JOBS – Job Opportunities for Business Success – is an action plan to spur job growth and economic investment. JOBS II picks up where JOBS left off at the end of last year. The goal is to position Michigan as quickly as possible to take advantage the national economic recovery.

“It is very important that we improve Michigan's economy to compete with the rest of the nation,” said Gilbert, who sponsored legislation in the first JOBS package. “In order to get our resident's back to work we need to make sure there are still companies here to work for.”

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